

**DRAFT**  
**Meeting of the**  
**U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science**  
**April 10 - 11, 2000**  
**1110 Vermont Avenue, NW**  
**Washington, DC**

*[These minutes report actions and summarize discussions occurring at the Commission meeting. A verbatim transcript of the meeting is maintained at the Commission office.]*

NCLIS Members:	Martha Gould, Chairperson; Joan Challinor, Vice Chair; C. E. "Abe" Abramson; Rebecca Bingham; Mary Furlong; José-Marie Griffiths; Jack Hightower; Bobby Roberts, Member-Designee; Elizabeth Sywetz for Beverly Sheppard
NCLIS Staff and Consultants:	Robert Willard, Executive Director; Judith Russell, Deputy Director; Elizabeth Bingham; Denise Davis; F. Woody Horton; Rosalie Vlach; Barbara Whiteleather
NCLIS Liaisons and Guests:	Ann Molod; Peyton Neal, representing Software and Information Industry Association; Emily Sheketoff, representing American Library Association Washington Office

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In the afternoon, the Commission held an informal brainstorming discussion on "The Digital Divide." Andy Carvin, Senior Associate, Communications Policy and Practice, Benton Foundation, introduced the discussion by describing "The Digital Divide Network", the Foundation's project under his direction.

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The Chairperson noted that no formal votes or actions could be taken because a quorum was not present.

**Martha Gould Designated NCLIS Chairperson**

It was announced that on March 3, 2000, the President named Martha Gould as NCLIS Chairperson. Upon assuming the position, Chairperson Gould immediately designated Joan Challinor as NCLIS Vice Chair.

A memorial service for The Honorable Jeanne Hurley Simon will be held the April 12, 9:30 a.m. in the Coolidge Auditorium, The Library of Congress.

### Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director's Report highlighted the following activities:

- *Personnel:* La Keshia Murray has replaced Cherylene Rollerson as Executive Secretary; Suzanne Randazzo has replaced Vivian Terrell as Administrative Officer; Rosalie Vlach has been hired in the new position of Director, Legislative and Public Affairs; Meagan Gabauer, a high school senior, is working as a volunteer intern; and Kathleen Lannon, is serving as a part-time consultant on records management.
- The reappointments for Bobby Roberts and Joan Challinor await Senate confirmation. Conversation on new NCLIS appointments continues with Sue Greenberg, who has assumed Walker Bass' position in the White House Personnel Office.
- *NCLIS Appropriation:* The amount in the President's budget for FY 2001 is \$1.5 million, a 15 percent increase.
- *Publications:* Copies of the NCLIS hearing report, "Kids and the Internet," were distributed. Ms. Vlach has developed a communications plan for disseminating copies to the proper entities in the government, industry leaders, key media individuals/organizations, etc. In addition, one copy will be personally hand-carried to Senator McCain.
- The NCLIS hearing report on "Library and Information Services to Individuals with Disabilities" will follow the same format as the "Kids and the Internet" report. A brochure, similar to the one prepared for "Kids and the Internet" was suggested.
- *NCLIS Projects:* The NCLIS Web site will be improved and enhanced.
- Additional office space is being acquired to allow for a larger conference room and additional office space.
- Marilyn Mason has been hired as a consultant to develop a proposal on "Where Libraries Will Be in the Future?" for presentation to the Gates Foundation. In addition, Commissioner Furlong suggested, the proposal should be presented to Zoe Baird, Markell Foundation, and Diane Frankel, Irvine Foundation.
- Work continues in the area of international library and information science activities.
- Mr. Willard noted that he presented a speech on U.S. information policy before the British Library and Information Commission. As of April 1, the British Commission will be replaced by the Museum, Library and Archives Council. He also spoke at Florida Library Day (the equivalent of ALA Legislative Day) with over 350 librarians and trustees assembled.

### Legislative Report

Ms. Vlach reported on recent legislative developments in the areas of: (1) Educational Opportunities, including the Elementary and Secondary Education Act; (2) Andrew Carnegie Libraries for Lifelong Learning Act; (3) The Digital Divide; (4) Kids and the Internet; and (5) Intellectual Property and Copyright.

### NCLIS Meeting Calendar

Commissioners were asked to review the library meeting calendar and inform Chairperson Gould of their interest in attending various meetings. When attending meetings/conferences, Commissioners should be active participants, bring greetings from the Commission, and prepare meeting reports for the Commissioners and staff.

This year's annual NCLIS/ALA breakfast will include, for the first time, heads of ALA divisions and other national library associations. Chairperson Gould will be honored at the breakfast meeting as the first public librarian to be named as Chair of the Commission.

Because of the Commission vacancies, Mr. Willard suggested a "hiatus" in scheduling Commission meetings. Rather than holding regular meetings, he suggested the Commission rely primarily on Executive Committee action until the Commission has a quorum.

Commissioner Furlong suggested the Commission meet in conjunction with one of the national aging associations, i.e., National Council on Aging, American Society on Aging, American Association of Retired People, etc. In addition, she suggested convening a hearing on *Older Adults and the Internet*. This suggestion will be considered within the NCLIS strategic plan.

Chairperson Gould suggested holding a hearing/forum in Cincinnati, Ohio, on the status of school libraries in the United States, which are "absolutely poverty-stricken."

### NCLIS Strategic Plan

Commissioners reviewed and discussed the draft NCLIS Strategic Plan. Suggestions for additional "mandatory" goals to the Plan included:

- Identify key policy questions related to the new economy and information literacy and educate Congress and other decision makers through briefing sessions on those issues;
- Include school libraries as a priority item under national planning and advising;
- Provide case study models of communities that have undertaken explosive growth in the dot-com economy and have put those dollars back into changing libraries and schools;
- Continue work on library and information services for the next generation (youth) and for individuals with disabilities;
- Reauthorization of the Library Services and Technology Act, including set-asides for the American Indians;
- LIS accreditation, including recruiting and retraining (monitoring and advisory role);
- Paperwork Elimination Act; information ethics; and e-government (measuring and assessing role);
- Replace "postal rates and policy" with "taxation of access to the Internet"; and
- Study on the Internet as a public utility versus a commercial proprietary network.

Staff was requested to prepare a listing of all priorities discussed for Commission review and selection.

In determining which issues to select as potential goals, Mr. Horton suggested the Commission consider the following question: “Will this development empower individuals to do for themselves what they could not otherwise were we not living in the Information Age?”

#### NCLIS 30th Anniversary

The period for the 30<sup>th</sup> NCLIS anniversary celebration will be from the establishment of the Commission (July 20) to the time of its first meeting (September 20, the following year). This was the commemoration period observed for the 25th anniversary.

Mr. Willard offered to generate a list of the Members of Congress supporting the legislation to establish the Commission so they can be included in the celebration activity and recognized for their contributions 30 years ago. The Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Ted Stevens, and the ranking minority member of the Health Committee, Ted Kennedy and Rep. Patsy Mink from Hawaii, were among those who supported the legislation who are still in Congress.

The Commission discussed the idea of a “Friends and Family of NCLIS” event and/or a “Symposium on the Next 30 Years.” Specific suggestions for invitees were: an older American (perhaps 100); a nine-year old who trades on E-Bay; Ted Kennedy; a rock star concerned with reading and libraries; celebrities Herby Hancock and/or LeVar Burton who deeply care about children; Internet leaders such as Larry Ellison, Steve Case, Michael Dell; representatives from the Futures Caucus; John Naisbitt, author of “Megatrends”; Jeff Bezos of Amazon; key people from National Academy of Sciences; and Girl Geeks.

The following Subcommittee was formed to plan the 30th Anniversary celebration: Jack Hightower, chair; José-Marie Griffiths; Mary Furlong (until her appointment expires on July 19, 2000); Joan Challinor, and Martha Gould.

#### NCLIS Bylaws

Chairperson Gould requested that Dr. Roberts review the draft *NCLIS Bylaws* (which he originally composed) before final submission for Commission approval.

#### Sister Libraries

Rosalie Vlach, Director, Legislative and Public Affairs, will assume responsibility for the Sister Libraries project, working closely with NCLIS Consultant Beth Bingham. Ms. Bingham reported on recent national and international Sister Libraries activities. To date, 50 requests for applications have been received for this (the third) round. The closing date for applications is May 1, 2000. The possibility of funding from State Department ICSECA funds was discussed.

It was decided that the Sister Libraries display booth would be taken to the IFLA 2000 Annual Conference in Jerusalem if funds are available.

Vice Chair Challinor expressed her desire to begin the evaluation process, highlighting successes, discussing project implementation, and analyzing the pros and cons for potential 'homes', i.e., Sister Cities, IFLA, UNESCO, etc. She suggested the evaluation process run through December 2001 (the end of the Millennium celebration) to fulfill NCLIS' mandate with the White House Millennium Council. At that time, the project could be handed over to UNESCO, which has expressed an interest, or some other appropriate organization.

Because of the cost and amount of staff time involved for this project, Mr. Willard was requested to postpone seeking funds from commercial vendors pending the decision (by the Chairperson and Executive Director) on whether or not to continue with additional applications.

#### Library Statistics Program

Ms. Davis highlighted recent activities, including: (a) the FY 2000 Libraries and the Internet study; (b) a "brain-storming" meeting with Martha Gould, Rebecca Bingham, Maurice Travillian, Maryland State Librarian, and representatives from ALA and IMLS to discuss libraries as community technology access points; (c) the *Pocket Guide for Library Statistics*; (d) the National Center for Education Statistics move to data collection on-line to reduce the lag time. At Commissioner Griffiths' suggestion, Ms. Davis will consider a survey to collect statistics on Community Technology Centers.

#### White House Conference on Library and Information Services 2000

Mr. Willard reported that the President has turned over the request for a White House Conference on Library and Information Services in 2000 to Ellen Lovell, Deputy Assistant to the President. Mr. Willard offered to "keep up the pressure" and stated that he remains hopeful that "the first person who spoke at the first White House Conference, and now occupies the White House, would not leave without talking about libraries at least once more, whether it be a full-blown White House Conference or a media event."

#### NCLIS Publications:

Copies of the following publications were distributed:

- The Preliminary Assessment of the Proposed Closure of the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), A Report to the President and the Congress. Mr. Horton also reported that Secretary of Commerce, William Daley, has not received Congressional support for his proposal to close NTIS.
- Kids and the Internet: The Promise and the Perils, An NCLIS Hearing, November 10, 1998. In addition to NCLIS mailing list, it was suggested that the report be sent to the presidential candidates; Members of Congress, in particular the Appropriations Committees; and newspaper, radio and television personalities such as Dr. Laura Schlessinger; Dr. Joy Browne; Katie Couric; Diane Rehm; Oprah Winfrey; Pat Mitchell; Moira Gunn; and Fred Fiskin. Additional suggestions for dissemination should be sent to Rosalie Vlach.

Both publications can be downloaded in PDF format from the NCLIS web site.

#### Hall of Service

Commissioner Furlong suggested that the staff office have a “Hall of Service” for NCLIS Executive Directors with a list of accomplishments, similar to the display for former Chairpersons.

#### Liaison Comments

Emily Sheketoff, representing the ALA Washington Office, called for the Commission to “raise the President’s sensitivity to the library issues, in particular the dangers of a filtering amendment.”

Peyton Neal, representing the Software Information Industry Association (SIIA), stated that SIIA is in the process of considering the results of the NTIS study and projecting logical next steps for the private sector. In addition, SIIA is looking forward to NCLIS action on Phase III of the GPO study, together with Title 44 reform and NTIS issues.